



THOMAS G. NEWMAN,
EDITOR.

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Why is a bootblack like a bee? It improves each shining hour.

A Carload of honey has been shipped to Kansas City by Bittenbender & Woodcock, of Knoxville, Iowa.

It would Pay producers to allow local stores a commission of 20 per cent on the sale of comb honey, if they would retail it at 20 cents per box, or per pound. Better this than to allow the local retail prices to run down to less than the net amount you would receive from the store.

We have Received a photographic view of a portion of the public apiary established in the Zoological Gardens in Philadelphia, Pa., by Mr. Arthur Todd, Vice-President for Pennsylvania of the North American Bee-Keepers' Society. In the centre of it stands Mr. Todd in the act of viewing a frame of brood and bees just taken from a hive. We have placed it upon the walls of our office, where it will be seen by our visitors.

Oatman & Brother, of Dundee, Ills., have just sold 38,000 pounds of comb honey in one lot, to a dealer for \$5,000, spot cash. They always have a good crop, always winter their bees on the summer stands with success, and always sell their honey at a good price for cash. They are successful apiarists and shrewd business men, but they are very modest and quiet; and keep their own counsels. The above facts were gleaned from a "neighbor."

Gathering Honey. — The Saginaw, Mich., Courier of Nov. 2, 1886, contains the following:

John Rey, the apiarist, has gathered in the season's work of his 118 colonies of bees, consisting of 4,000 pounds of extracted honey, and 2,000 pounds of comb honey. His bees are mostly Italians. They were yesterday engaged in gathering honey from raspberry blossoms, which is something unusual for this season of the year.

What Fools these Mortals be! — We have just learned of a transaction in proof of the above assertion. In a town which was considered to be a good market for honey, resides an apiarist who was supplying the town with a good article at a fair price. One day he was informed that some bee-keepers from a distance had hauled in a large lot of comb honey and retailed it "all over town" at 10 cents per pound. This ruined the market for the local apiarist, and compelled him to ship his to another town in order to get a fair price for it. Such things are to be deplored. There is no use of such ruinous competition, and every man ought to have enough honor about him not to do such a mean thing!

To prevent such transactions, would it not be well to get up a closer bond of union, and protect each other's interests? It is high time now to organize for protection. A central body should be incorporated, and issue charters for local organizations. These should have representation in the National body, and be under its control. What do you think, dear reader, of such a plan? To make the North American Bee-Keepers' Society such a central body would be very easy, and then to control the markets of the country by ascertaining the amount of the crop, and scattering it evenly over the great marts of trade, after satisfying the local demands.

The united wisdom of apiarists ought to be able to devise the ways and means and make a success of such an institution. We would propose that this important matter be discussed at the next Michigan State Convention, and let a committee be appointed to take the matter in hand, and after reviewing the whole ground, and corresponding with the principal apiarists of America, let the committee report through the bee-papers in time to have it acted upon by the next meeting of the International Society.

As this matter is one that interests every bee-keeper in America, we may reasonably expect that they will take hold of the matter in such a way as to bring it to a successful issue.

Let no one think that this is a scheme to Newman-ize anything or anybody! We neither desire nor expect to have any personal control over the matter. While we will do all we can to further the interests of the apiarists of America, in any way they may deem expedient, we would ask not to be placed on the committee, least any jealous or envious ones may thereby be discouraged from participating in this important matter. The editor of the BEE JOURNAL already has more "public duties" than he can well perform, and bears more of the "honors" which such bring than he cares to carry.

A Father can Give his Young Son no better present than a year's reading of the Scientific American. Its contents will lead the young mind in the path of thought, and if he treads there a while, he will forget frivolities and be of some account, and if he has an inventive or mechanical turn of mind, this paper will afford him more entertainment, as well as useful information, than he can obtain elsewhere.

The Michigan State Convention will convene at Ypsilanti on Dec. 1, 1886. We intended to call special attention to this meeting, as one of the most important and influential in the United States; but the following from Prof. Cook, just received as we were closing up the forms for this issue of the JOURNAL, will answer the same purpose:

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Mich., Nov. 11, 1886.

DEAR MR. EDITOR: — May I present through your admirable JOURNAL a special invitation to the bee-keepers, not only of Michigan, but of adjoining States, to be with us at our next annual meeting to be held at Ypsilanti, on the Michigan Central Railroad, about thirty miles west of Detroit, on Dec. 1 and 2, 1886?

Four topics of immense importance will be thoroughly discussed. "How to market our honey," "How to produce comb honey that will market itself," "Have we the best bee?" and "What of bee-forage?"

Mr. A. I. Root promises to be with us, and we hope for and expect Messrs. D. A. Jones, J. B. Hall, and S. T. Pettit, of Ontario, Dr. Mason, of Toledo, the Editor of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, and a host of others. It will be a rare "feast," just such as Secretary Cutting can serve up. "Come one; come all."

A. J. COOK, Pres.

As the Editor of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL is engaged to deliver a lecture in this city on the evening of Dec. 1, 1886, he will be unable to be present at Ypsilanti, and participate in the deliberations of the convention. His representative will be present, however, to take a report of the proceedings which will duly appear in the BEE JOURNAL. Let there be a good attendance.

The Display of Honey at the Iowa State Fair was very large. Mr. J. W. Bittenbender, of Knoxville, had a magnificent exhibit of nearly 4,000 pounds in crates and jars. We acknowledge the receipt of a photograph of Mr. B's exhibit, which attests its dimensions as well as the tasty manner in which it is arranged. A pyramid of extracted honey in jars, contained 14 tiers, with two or three dozen glass jars exhibited in each tier. The crates of comb honey numbered about 16 in the lower tier, and 8 in the upper one, and 16 tiers of sections in height. There was also a display of implements for the apiary, which was quite creditable to Mr. B., who took nearly all the first premiums. The photograph also shows Mr. and Mrs. Bittenbender standing in front of the exhibit.

Buz, is the title of a new bee-novel. It gives the supposed "life and adventures of a honey-bee." It is written by Maurice Noel, and published by Henry Holt & Co., New York. We found it so very interesting that we read every word of it before closing the book. Our time is so much occupied that we could not do this except on a special occasion; this opportunity we found while returning from the Indianapolis Convention. Puck notices the book in this funny way:

"Buz; or, the Life and Adventures of a Honey-Bee," by Maurice Noel (Henry Holt & Co.) is a meritorious little book. It describes the career of a bee in a sympathetic and picturesque manner, which will be interesting to young and old alike. It is easy to see that Mr. Noel has never picked a honey-bee before it was ripe. He does not know the warmth of a bee's affection for a man who is too previous. If he did, he would not be so familiar with the insects.



AND

Replies by Prominent Apiarists.

[It is useless to ask for answers to Queries in this Department in less time than one month. They have to wait their turn, be put in type, and sent in about a dozen at a time to each of those who answer them; get them returned, and then find space for them in the JOURNAL. If you are in a "hurry" for replies, do not ask for them to be inserted here.—ED.]

Alsike Clover and Dark Honey.

Query, No. 335.—Is Alsike clover the cause of my honey being dark colored? Is it not an injury instead of a benefit to sow it? It commenced to blossom on May 1, the same time the white clover commenced. I always had beautiful white honey every spring before my bees gathered honey from Alsike clover. It is almost as dark as buckwheat honey this year.—Cheviot, N. Y.

I think the bees gathered something else besides the Alsike.—G. L. TINKER.

No. Is there nothing else to gather honey from? Did you not have some honey-dew?—DADANT & SON.

I do not think that the Alsike made the trouble. I wish my bees were surrounded with it.—C. C. MILLER.

No. The Alsike honey is in every way the equal of that from white clover.—A. J. COOK.

I think not. Alsike produces light colored honey here. "Honey-dew" or something else may have colored your honey.—G. W. DEMAREE.

It is possible that the Alsike is the cause of your trouble. Alsike clover honey has a pinkish color, but not nearly so dark as buckwheat.—W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

Honey from Alsike clover proves to be darker color than from white clover, but nothing near as dark as buckwheat, in this locality. The flavor of honey from Alsike is excellent.—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

I have had no experience with Alsike clover. But I have seen honey claimed to be from Alsike that was the same in color as white clover.—H. D. CUTTING.

Alsike clover does not produce dark honey in this locality. I think that your dark honey came from something besides Alsike. Have you not in your locality some tulip trees, more commonly known as yellow poplar or white wood? The large bell-shaped flowers on these trees often give a copious and continued yield of deep wine-colored honey, though of very good flavor.—JAMES HEDDON.

The honey from Alsike clover is not dark colored in my vicinity; on the contrary it is very light. I consider from small experience, together

with the testimony of many, that Alsike is a valuable honey-plant for the reason that is one of the best of foods for our stock, and as profitable as any to both raise and feed; therefore the honey gained is all profit, as it is extra entirely.—J. E. POND, JR.

Putting Bees into the Cellar.

Query, No. 336.—1. Is it best to put bees into the cellar before snow comes, or after? 2. Will it do to leave on the honey-board and raise the hive from the bottom-board? 3. Would one inch be too much for the bottom tier of hives?—Stittville, N. Y.

1. Generally before. 2. Yes.—C. C. MILLER.

1. Before the snow comes. 2. Yes. 3. No.—W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

It is always best to put bees into winter quarters before freezing weather sets in.—J. P. H. BROWN.

1. I put mine into the cellar about Nov. 15, before hard freezing weather comes. Snow makes little difference. 2. Yes; but I prefer a quilt or sawdust cushions, to a honey-board. 3. No.—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

1. I put them in at the beginning of the very cold weather. 2. Leave ventilation above and below; but not too much. 3. One inch space is not too much for any tier of hives.—DADANT & SON.

I would put bees into the cellar before it became severely cold. Snow may come, but still it may not be too cold to leave them out. Cold winds are more to be dreaded than a few very cold nights with the air still. 2. Yes. 3. No.—G. L. TINKER.

1. Yes, before snow comes. 2. Yes, you can do so. 3. I would prefer to raise the hive and put under a frame about 1-inch deep, that would leave you a space of 1½ under the frames. Leave a good entrance.—H. D. CUTTING.

1. I desire to have them in the cellar before very severe weather—usually about Nov. 15, here. 2. Yes, that will do nicely. 3. In a good cellar a space of 1 inch below would be excellent. I should like it; but the temperature of such a cellar must not go below 41°, Fahr.—A. J. COOK.

I believe it is detrimental to leave colonies out-doors until the temperature has gone low enough so that in order to keep warm they have been compelled to exercise. It is also dangerous to house them immediately after frequent and extended flights in search of nectar; for when bees are exercising, i. e., laboring to the extent of wasting tissue, they will be at the same time consuming bee-bread, which consumption I believe to be the cause of bee-diarrhea, if confinement prevents frequent evacuation. When our bees are regularly working in the summer, if you carefully remove a colony to a cellar maintaining a temperature from 45° to 65°, or 60°, they will have bee-diarrhea in a few days. I would rather house them too

late than too early, however. "Honey-boards" and "bottom-boards" and "spaces" have little to do with causing or preventing bee-diarrhea.—JAMES HEDDON.

Keeping Bees on Shares.

Query, No. 337.—Last June I took 6 colonies of bees of Mr. B. to work on shares, for one-half of the increase and one-half of the honey, each to furnish our own hives. Our hives being of different construction, I found it necessary to divide the bees at the time of swarming. There were 4 swarms; the first I put into B's hive, and the next into mine, and so on alternately. Two of B's colonies lost their queens, one of them being one of his old colonies; then a new one also, one of mine, lost a queen. I advised B. as soon as I had discovered that the queens were gone, and requested him to send me queens. He made no reply, so in time I furnished the queens. This fall those colonies are short of food for winter. Who ought to furnish food?—Ont.

Mr. B.—J. P. H. BROWN.

The expense should be borne equally by each, the one who has the bees on shares to do the feeding.—W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

On the proposition stated, I should say that each should furnish his own winter food. I judge that there was no surplus to divide, but that is "one of the fortunes of war."—J. E. POND, JR.

Partnership in bees is a poor ship to sail in, so many things will arise to cause dissatisfaction. As you state the question, you have no business to furnish queens or food for winter.—H. D. CUTTING.

My opinion would be that B. should pay for the two queens if they were purchased. If you reared them then it was a part of your work. In either event I should say each should furnish one-half of the food required to bring the bees through the winter.—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

I think that the bee-keeper should have reared the queens and introduced them to the queenless colonies, or at least should have given them just hatching brood from which they could rear queens. The cost of food for winter should be shared by each.—G. L. TINKER.

We think you should furnish food to those colonies unless otherwise agreed. Queen-rearing is a part of bee-keeping, and a bee-man should be expected to keep all his colonies supplied with queens. Besides, if there is any surplus honey it should be used, above all things, to supply any deficiency.—DADANT & SON.

Although you found it necessary to divide the bees at swarming time, owing to the difference in the hives, the division in fact should take place at the close of the honey season, or at such time as both of you were parties to the division, unless the original contract fixed the matter. If the queens were lost before the mutual

division, you should have learned the expense of re-queening, otherwise the other party should have done it. If the honey and bees were properly divided, in the absence of any contract, each party should winter his own bees.—G. W. DEMAREE.

I should suppose each for his own bees, though I am not authority in such matters.—A. J. COOK.

As near as I can understand the spirit of the contract, I would say that it depends upon the bargain as to who was to supply queenless colonies. Unless differently agreed upon, I should hold you for such supply; and for the shortage in winter stores, both equally, unless it can be shown that the shortage is the effect of the queenlessness which B. had agreed to make good, and failed to do; then I should hold B. alone responsible for the lack of stores, and to supply such as are needed.—JAMES HEDDON.

OUR CLUBBING LIST.

We supply the *American Bee Journal* one year, and any of the following publications, at the prices quoted in the last column of figures. The first column gives the regular price of both. All postage prepaid.

	Price of both.	Club
The American Bee Journal	1 00..	
and Gleanings in Bee-Culture	2 00..	1 75
(Bee-Keepers' Magazine)	1 25..	1 25
Bee-Keepers' Guide	1 50..	1 40
The Apiculturist	2 00..	1 70
Canadian Bee Journal	2 00..	1 75
Rays of Light	1 50..	1 35
The 7 above-named papers	5 25..	4 50
and Cook's Manual	2 25..	2 00
Bees and Honey (Newman)	2 00..	1 75
Binder for Am. Bee Journal	1 75..	1 60
Dzierzon's Bee-Book (cloth)	3 00..	2 00
Root's A B C of Bee-Culture	2 25..	2 10
Farmer's Account Book	4 00..	3 00
Guide and Hand-Book	1 50..	1 30
Heddon's book, "Success"	1 50	1 40

Convention Notices.

17 The New York State, the Eastern New York and the New Jersey & Eastern Bee-Keepers' Associations will hold their great united convention at Albany, N. Y., on Jan. 18, 19 and 20, 1888. This convention will be one of the largest, if not the largest, ever held anywhere in this country, and it behooves every bee-keeper to attend. A grand exhibit of apianian fixtures is promised. An unusually brilliant programme will be prepared and announced later.

17 The eleventh annual meeting of the N. W. Ill. & S. W. Wis. Bee-Keepers' Association will be held in the Grand Army Hall in Rockford, Ill., on the third Tuesday in January, 1887. There will be a two days' session. J. STEWART, Sec.

17 The next annual meeting of the Michigan State Bee-Keepers' Association will be held in Ypsilanti, Mich., on Dec. 1 and 2, 1888. H. D. CUTTING, Sec.

17 The Illinois Central Bee-Keepers' Association will hold its next meeting at Mt. Sterling, Ill., on Nov. 24 and 25, 1888. J. M. HAMBAUGH, Sec.

17 The next annual meeting of the Nebraska State Bee-Keepers' Association will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska, on Wednesday, Jan. 12, 1887. Location of Hall to be used and Hotel accommodations will be given after further arrangements have been made. H. N. PATTERSON, Sec.

17 The Cedar Valley Bee-Keepers' Association will hold its next semi-annual meeting in the City Hall at Vinton, Iowa, on Dec. 7 and 8, 1888. An excellent programme will be presented, including essays by the very best of Iowa apianists. Special rates have been secured at the Hotel's, and all are invited to come and help make this meeting both pleasant and profitable. H. E. HUBBARD, Sec.

CORRESPONDENCE

Explanatory.—The figures BEFORE the names indicate the number of years that the person has kept bees. Those AFTER, show the number of colonies the writer had in the previous spring and fall, or fall and spring, as the time of the year may require.

This mark ⊙ indicates that the apianist is located near the center of the State named; ♂ north of the center; ♀ south; ♂ east; ♀ west; and this ♂ northeast; ♀ northwest; ♂ southeast; and ♀ southwest of the center of the State mentioned.

For the American Bee Journal.

The Wintering Problem.

W. J. CULLINAN.

The very heading of this article will doubtless prevent many from perusing the same, especially the old-timers who think that they do not need any advice on wintering bees, and do not have to give any. But "let your light shine," should be the motto of all the members of the bee-keeping fraternity. If by a few words, either written or spoken, I can keep others off the rock upon which my ship was stranded, I am certainly lacking in humanitarian principles if I do not utter those "few words."

Having theorized but little upon the science of bee-culture, and never having practiced it scientifically, I shall not attempt to argue this self-important question from a scientific stand-point; but in homely phrase I shall tell a few things that I have learned, and paid for learning. There may be beginners in the field to whom these words of warning, though plainly spoken, will come greeting. While I do not wish to "tread upon the toes" of those who have been theorizing upon this problem, and studying its relation to science, I cannot help thinking that if a few grains of common-sense were mixed into many of the recipes, instead of the fine-spun theories and scientific analogies so frequently given, such recipes would be of far more service to the vast army of bee-keepers who have no time for theorizing, and no desire for the study of science. It is all right for Profs. Cook, McLain and others who have the time and inclination, to practice bee-keeping upon scientific principles—and there is no denying the fact that their researches are not only important, but of untold value to the cause. What the majority of bee-keepers want, however, is a simple, common-sense method of wintering bees, a method that is practical, concise, and that any one can follow.

While I am of the opinion that the cellar is the safest and best place to winter bees, if the conditions are right, I believe that in the absence of those conditions the summer stand is preferable, provided that ample protection of a proper kind is given.

As I have never had any experience in cellar-wintering of bees, I shall refer the reader to the methods of Ira Barber, G. M. Doolittle, and others, frequently detailed in the bee-papers, and which may be safely followed.

The first year I kept bees I wintered them unprotected and unmolested upon the summer stands, leaving them the whole of an 8-frame Langstroth hive to keep warm during the whole of that bitter cold winter of 1884-85, and the consequence was they came through very weak in bees. Last winter I acted upon the advice of a brother bee-keeper, and removed the outside frames of my 10-frame Simplicity hives, placed a piece of burlap next to the remaining outside combs, and filled in between that and the wall of the hive with chaff; over the frames I placed a chaff cushion, the lid fitting down tight over the same. I then grouped the hives together in twos and threes, and over and around them I piled hay and straw to a depth of about two feet on top, leaving the entrances open. No water could possibly get in from the outside, and yet in the latter part of the winter water collected and ran down on the inside of the hives, completely blocking the entrances to some of them. As a result I lost 7 colonies out of 15; and some of the surviving colonies were in a weak condition.

I am confident that none died from cold, excepting one that was weak in bees when put into winter quarters, for when raking the snow away from the entrances in the coldest weather, steam would issue therefrom, attesting the presence of sufficient warmth; and that they did not die from starvation, ample stores in the hives of the dead colonies bore testimony.

Then, what killed my bees? Upon examination I found the combs were damp and moldy, and full of dead bees, and I very naturally concluded that they died of too much packing.

This year I am preparing my bees as follows: Examining first to see that they have ample stores, I crowd the bees to the south side of the hive on 4 or 5 Langstroth frames, according to strength, placing a division-board on the north, and feed where I think it is needed. Before the advent of cold weather I shall pack between the division-board and north wall of the hive with dry sawdust, and over the frames put the same material six inches in depth; then ventilating the lid with a 1½-inch auger-hole in each end, and banking around the hives with earth four inches above the bottom-board. I shall then leave my pets to enter their long winter's sleep, confidently expecting them to awaken betimes in the spring and begin the season of 1887 with renewed zeal, in which case I shall consider myself well rewarded for my labor.

A word as to feed: I consider pure, well-ripened honey, either fall or summer-gathered, preferable to any other food for bees; of course in the absence of such, sugar syrup makes a good substitute. I believe the two

great essentials to safe wintering to be these, viz: plenty of wholesome food, and proper protection from dampness and cold.

Mt. Sterling, Mo. Ills.

For the American Bee Journal.

Acorn Honey—Report for 1886.

C. THEILMANN.

Never before this summer have my bees gathered honey from acorns or honey-dew that was noticeable, notwithstanding I have seen them work on oak-trees and acorns at times through the summer and fall for a number of years; but this summer they have gathered over 3,000 pounds of surplus from acorns alone, besides storing considerable in the brood department. The honey tastes very noticeable to me of tannin, but some people say they cannot discover any by-taste; the color is bluish white, with a muddy appearance, though the honey is clear.

On a visit to St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minn., I noticed a great deal of this kind of honey which came from Wisconsin, Iowa, and this State. It is easily detected by the bluish white color of the capping on the combs. Prof. Cook kindly tells us that the acorns are pierced by an insect, and the saliva of the insect foment the starch of the acorn into honey, which flows from the acorns freely (as I have observed closely), runs down on the branches and scatters on the leaves all over the trees, and in one instant I have seen the leaves of corn sprinkled with it, which grew under an oak-tree.

I am not yet convinced whether the honey is caused by the insect above mentioned, or whether it is caused by the weather under certain influences which bursts the acorn, as nearly all of them which I have closely examined had an oblong cut or burst horizontally or crosswise of the acorn. When I first saw the bees working on the oak leaves, honey-dew was my first impression, and I have no doubt that many would have called it louse honey, even if they could not see any lice; if we always correctly understood the origin of what is called honey-dew, we would have but little louse honey.

The milk-weeds which I have sent to Prof. Cook for examination, and which were dripping with sweets when I cut them from the stalks, I have no doubt came from the lice on them, as they have extracted some clear, sweet substance similar to granulated sugar syrup, visible with the naked eye, and with the microscope they showed drops of crystals on the under side of the leaves while folded (underside to underside) and lying over night on a window-casing; but the curiosity was, that the bees did not touch the sweets on these milk-weeds, which were in my pasture, while at the same time they worked thickly on their flowers. The leaves were dripping with sweets from the lice for over ten days, but I have not

discovered a single bee working on them, but on some stalks the ants gathered it very clean.

All of my 163 colonies which I put into winter quarters last fall, came out alive and in excellent condition. I put them out on April 10, and in less than two hours they brought in pollen and honey. The weather being very favorable through April, they filled their hives with brood very rapidly, so that on May 1 they were one month in advance, compared with other years.

I sold 15 colonies and commenced the season with 148, and increased them by natural swarming to 197 colonies. My surplus honey was a little over 11,000 pounds, all of which was in one-pound sections, except about 600 of extracted, the latter being mostly from unfinished sections. I never leave over any honey in unfinished sections to be finished the next season, as there is a good deal wasted and candied, and besides, it makes very bad looking honey, some of it being sour and unfit for sale. If we care anything for our good names as first-class honey producers, we should always extract unfinished sections.

The flow of honey was slow, but nearly steady from the time that white clover commenced to bloom until the latter part of August, when it ceased, with abundance of bloom, on account of the weather being rainy and cold. They had only two good days in September to gather much honey. The past week the weather was nice and warm, the temperature being 75° to 80° in the shade, but the bees could not get much, as a heavy frost about ten days ago had killed nearly all the flowers. My bees all have natural stores enough for winter, and are all prepared; some of them had not enough and others had more stores than they needed. I have equalized them according to strength and other conditions, by taking full frames of honey from the heavy ones and giving them to those that were too light; not believing in guess work, I went from hive to hive, weighing and equalizing them. I calculated that each colony had from 25 to 35 pounds of honey, according to strength, which should be known by the apiarist, and calculations made accordingly.

I think it is far more important for the practical apiarist to have his hives, or rather his frames, all of one size, so that every frame fits every hive he has. He then can change frames from any and every hive, to all. This is one of the most important points in manipulating an apiary, and there is where some leading bee-keepers make great mistakes (except for experiments) in allowing from two to a dozen or more different frames and hives in their apiaries. It is absolutely untrue that they can get more than double or even one-quarter more honey with one hive, than with another, other things being equal. It is not the hive that produces the honey. This should be considered by all bee-keepers.

Thielmanton, Mo. Minn., Oct. 16, 1886.

For the American Bee Journal.

Painted Hives—Hatching Bee-Eggs.

A. J. COOK.

In reply to Mrs. O. F. Jackson, on page 698, it may be said that paint surely does stop up the pores of wood, and so stop the passage of air. Hence, if it is wise to secure this freer circulation, which, of course, will remove moisture, then no paint would be the order.

But under proper management painted hives do well; in other circumstances, all hives fail. I would always paint my hives, not that it will always pay in dollars and cents, but for neatness sake.

I prefer to have my hives closed in the winter except at the entrances, which I would have wide open, if in the cellar, which is the best place I think in this latitude. That bees will winter well in some cases is shown in the fact that I once had a colony winter exceedingly well with a sealed cover, and ice-closed entrance. Nor was the ice melted at the entrance; it was still frozen in the spring. This hive was painted. This might not happen again, as the conditions must be just right. I expected to lose the colony. In most cases I probably would not be disappointed.

In the interesting article by Mr. Doolittle, on page 693, he asks if bees can retard the hatching of eggs. I do not think they can, except as they suffer them to chill. By putting eggs of insects in ice-boxes, or in any cold place, the hatching can be indefinitely postponed. Thus I have known eggs to be kept three years before hatching, when normally they would have hatched in less than one. Again, we can hatch bee-eggs artificially if we secure the proper heat; hence we disprove the chyme theory. In case the queen keeps laying, the bees must destroy the eggs, or suffer them to become chilled, or else there will, I think, be brood very soon.

I want to add that I have tried the solar wax-extractor thoroughly, and think that it is worth all its inventor, Mr. Poppleton, has said in its praise. Agricultural College, Mich.

For the American Bee Journal.

Colonies Refusing to Unite, etc.

M. W. MAHONY.

About a month ago I found that one of my colonies had dwindled considerably in numbers. I thought the queen was lost, but on examination I found a small portion of brood in all stages. I then concluded that she must be a bad layer (though only 3 years old), and was determined to remove her and unite the colony with another, but I could not find her when I went to look. I did unite them, however, by transferring combs and bees of a swarm I got on July 4, into the dwindling lot, putting the transferred bees at the back of the hive and sprinkling both with

syrup, into which a few drops of the essence of cloves had been put; there was very little fighting—not 50 bees killed.

Now comes the extraordinary part of the business. I have examined them repeatedly since uniting them, and I find that both colonies are apparently as distinct now as when they occupied separate hives; the old bees crawl about in the same listless manner as before being joined by the others, while the latter are as frisky and as "full of sting" (there is about a fourth Ligurian blood in them) as bees ought to be. The old (dwindled) colony is one that I got in May, 1885; they were then put into a combination hive on full sheets of foundation, and did very well last year; this year I got a little over 20 sections from them.

I have examined the combs carefully, and I can find nothing wrong. I have also kept a look-out for a rejected queen, but I have not seen one. Can any of the readers of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL explain this objection on the part of the bees to unite?

I anxiously await the coming of the excellent weekly AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, which I get here never later than 13 days after the date of publication. The past has been a bad season for bee-keepers in this country. I got more than twice the quantity of honey last year from 2 colonies of bees.

Killarney, Ireland, Oct. 6, 1886.

For the American Bee Journal.

"Simmins' Non-Swarming System."

W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

So many of the foreign works that I have read have such a slow, measured, solemn, away-behind-the-times style about them, as compared with the quick, light, elastic "get-there" tread of our American authors, that I was most agreeably surprised to find a decidedly American air about the book entitled "Simmins' Non-Swarming System." It is quite evident that the author is a close reader of American apicultural literature; in fact, some of the methods and practices advocated by Mr. Simmins have been discussed quite recently in these columns.

Although the author writes briefly upon quite a number of bee-keeping topics, yet the grand central idea is the prevention of swarming. The principle consists in giving the bees more room than they require in the shape of unfinished combs, adjoining or next to the entrance. The author states that it is a fact that no colony in normal condition attempts to swarm unless it has all its brood-combs completed. He says that the probable reason why this has escaped the notice of bee-keepers, is because all have become so wedded to the use of foundation, that such a thing as frames having starters only as a guide to the bees, could not possibly enter their heads; and, moreover, the next

great difficulty in producing comb honey would be getting rid of the long-fixed idea that bees will never work in supers until all brood-combs are finished and occupied.

The fact is, however, that by limiting the number of brood-combs just before the season commences, then inserting below or in front of such brood-combs several frames with $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch starters only, having more room than they require in the nursery, the desire for swarming does not exist, while for all practical purposes the bees can be at once crowded into the sections; the latter being first filled with newly built combs. By carefully regulating the surplus department, and removing combs as fast as finished, the frames with starters never have finished combs.

The sections being filled with combs the bees fill those rather than go on building comb to any great extent below the brood-nest. The system offers still another advantage. The author says that he has long been of the opinion that foundation is being used in the brood-chamber at a serious loss. He says that brood-combs can be produced by sugar-feeding previous to the honey-flow more cheaply than foundation can be purchased; and, moreover, when hiving swarms (natural or artificial), if frames with guides only be used instead of full sheets of foundation, the whole energy of the bees is thrown upon the supers. It will be seen, he continues, how by first placing a limit on the size of the brood-nest, then averaging empty frames between it and the entrance, the bees have every opportunity to profitably apply their surplus secretion of wax; thus, instead of being simply a consumer of this article, the apiarist of the future will produce wax at a profit. This natural secretion of the bees is probably always present during a flow of honey, so says Mr. Simmins, and instead of the wax scales being cast away for want of a suitable place to use them, this system finds room and employment for all surplus that may be present.

The comb that is cut out below the brood-nest is fitted into the sections. If it contains eggs or small larvae before it is removed, it is kept away from the bees until the eggs or larvae have lost their vitality. Perhaps some will remember that Mr. Boardman remarked last December at Detroit, that he hived his bees upon empty frames, then cut out the combs and fitted them into the sections. It seemed to me at the time as being quite a task, and it still appears the same, as does this cutting out of combs below the brood-nest to prevent swarming; but I am very much interested in it—it is a new idea to me, and I presume I shall give it a trial another season simply to see how it works. Whether inverting the brood-nest weekly would prevent swarming, I do not know; my experience in that line has been too limited. In my own apiary I do not care to prevent swarming, but I can easily see that it would be a great advantage to one who wishes to establish out apiaries.

To secure combs for filling the sections, Mr. Simmins puts on an upper story with frames of foundation before the honey harvest, then places dummies, filled with dry Porto Rico sugar, upon each side of the brood-nest and each side of the frames of foundation. With a good colony on the third day the foundation will be drawn out, when it is removed and a fresh batch inserted.

The author says that there has been a tendency of late to start bees upon a few sections early in the season. This is very well with weak colonies, but with such colonies as will give a fair profit, a larger super room should be given at the start; more particularly is this the case with the plan of obtaining combs for the sections before the honey harvest comes on. He says: "Give a good colony 40 pounds capacity, and they will fill it; give it 60 pounds and they will do the same, and so on almost without limit. Under this condition the brood-nest is left comparatively free from stores, and the population is kept at about one thing until towards the close of the season; but cramp them to begin with, and they are cramped in every way until the end of the summer."

Mr. Simmins says, also, that from the moment that surplus receptacles are put on, the production of brood should be on the decline. He farther says that it will be observed that he has laid great stress upon the necessity of so managing the surplus arrangements that the brood-nest is not crowded with honey, and on no occasion should it become necessary to extract from the brood-combs when producing comb honey, as is recommended by some writers, who thereby acknowledge their system to be at fault. When the season is over the bees will need feeding, and he advises giving them 20 pounds of sugar syrup in one or two doses. He then points out the profits of wintering the bees on sugar, and that by so doing good colonies are secured for the next season's work.

Without a doubt, says Mr. Simmins, there are no bees which cap their honey and give it such a light appearance as do the native blacks; he also adds that Ligurian queens mated to black drones are very prolific and give energetic workers, producing honey in much larger quantities than the bees of either pure race. Their combs do not present quite so light an appearance as that of the blacks. For the production of extracted honey Mr. S. thinks that the Cyprians stand at the head of all.

The direct introduction of queens is treated at some length, but as this has already been given in these columns I will not notice it, except to say that I had proved it to be a success long before I had heard that any one else had practiced it.

The author is a strong advocate of the practice of feeding *dry* sugar to bees instead of making it into syrup. The sugar best adapted for dry feeding is that known as Porto Rico. It is unrefined, but very pure, and is soft and moist, therefore well suited

to the purpose. It is placed in feeders of a dummy pattern, and hung at the side of the brood-nest; it may also be placed in a feeder having a wire-cloth bottom, which is placed over the bees.

Mr. S. has also an uncapping machine, the first principle of which consists in its having two oscillating knives, which, driven by foot power, have a reverse motion while the comb is passed down between them and the cappings are quickly removed from both sides at once. In order to make this a success the combs must be built between separators, or, as Mr. S. calls them, "dividers." When producing extracted honey, Mr. S. uses these "dividers" in the supers or upper stories. It seems to me as though all this is "too much machinery."

The author is opposed to reversible frames and hives, but it would seem from his remarks upon the subject that his acquaintance with them has been confined to clumsy or ill-conceived styles. For instance, he speaks of working with a standard frame with no bottom "rail," thus he has a comb one inch deeper than those who use a thick "rail" for reversing. (!) He says he made a number of hives in 1876, which could be reversed entire, and he has proved to his satisfaction that the plan is based upon no sound principle; that it causes more labor, and no better results can be obtained. My own experience is that those results which Mr. S. so justly praises, viz: empty brood-nests at the end of the season, and thus an opportunity of feeding sugar for winter can be secured with less labor by invertible hives than by any other method; and I think if Mr. S. could give the best style of invertible hive a fair trial he would be of the same opinion. One thing is certain, all things must eventually stand upon their merits.

Now let no one who reads this review write to me or to the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL and ask questions or criticize, until they have first read the book, as they may therein find an answer. Many other topics are treated in the book, but lack of space forbids even mention of them. Books that tell us exactly how to do things are valuable, but if there is any book that I thoroughly enjoy it is one that sets me thinking; that furnishes me seed thoughts. Such is "Simmins' Non-Swarming System."

Rogersville, 8 Mich.

For the American Bee Journal.

The Poetry of Bee-Keeping.

EUGENE SECOR.

Neighbor Smith is something of a wag. Neighbor Smith is also interested in bee-keeping. He has been in the habit of borrowing my bee-papers to read. One of neighbor Smith's favorite maxims is, "Never buy anything you can borrow." Another is, "What's the use of having friends if you don't use them."

Neighbor Smith brought home the borrowed papers the other evening.

That was in violation of another of his favorite sayings, viz: "It's trouble enough to borrow a thing without having to return it." "But," he added with a twinkle in his eye, which made me think of Santa Claus, "I like those apples of yours pretty well, and as the evenings are getting long, and the time before election short, I just thought I would make an excuse to come over to talk politics, religion or bees."

"What part of the bee-papers do I like best? Well, I'll just give you my humble opinion that *Doolittle* wasn't well named; for he *does* more than any other writer to convince me that he knows what he's talking about. There's no fustian about him. He don't expect to start a National bank from the proceeds of 10 colonies of bees in one season without work."

"Another thing I've noticed lately in the bee-papers which makes an old veteran like me laugh all over—that's the poetry of bee-keeping. I wish some of those distinguished literary lights, who have been writing poetry about the bees, and about the poetry of bee-keeping, would just come and help me take off my honey after the first hard frost, and get the bees ready for winter. If they didn't sing a different song then, I'd have some faith in this poetry business. I would like to see some who are overflowing with poetic bubbles, go through a few hybrid colonies the second day after a hard frost. If they didn't hibernate in the bosom of their families after a few charges, then I'd believe that bee-keeping was good for the sick—for the women as well—for the dude of the town or the country belle."

"I never have seen two lines of poetry in the bee-business in 25 years of hard work; and the nearest to poetry of anything that I ever read of, was when Samson extracted honey out of the carcass of a dead lion on his way to see his girl. There's a little of the "sweet hum" in that, no mistake. But we who have to rustle for a living find but little poetry in the back-aches and the arm-aches and the sting-aches of the honey-business. And, then, after we've toiled like a galley-slave to get a crop, to have some grocery-man, whose only capital is cheek, to tell us that we *made* it! Or, if it is comb honey, to have some honest granger who happens to have the enormous crop of 200 pounds, demoralize the market by dickering it off for 8 or 10 cents per pound."

"You who have only ten or a dozen colonies, and get just honey enough to treat your friends when they come to see you, can see all the winsome delights and poetical fancies that an idle dreamer can imagine. You probably let the patient wife or the dutiful son do all the hard work in the bee-yard. You put me in mind of a hen with one chicken. She makes just as much noise, and puts on just as many airs as though she were a patent, double-decked incubator. If we could understand her clack she would probably be singing about the charming pastimes of the chicken business; while the staid old biddy that comes off with thirteen chicks

every clatter, is too busy scratching worms to see the rythmical lines floating in the dreamy atmosphere down in the brush lot."

"We who produce all the honey don't have the time nor the self-assurance to tell more than we know through the bee-papers. We don't care enough about seeing our names in print to give ten pounds of honey to every local editor for a puff, either. Now you may say to any of these 'sweet hum' men who are anxious to embark in light and profitable business, adapted to gentlemen in poor health or sickly women, that I'll sell 100 colonies, poetry and all, cheap. But the poetry would be something like this:

'Tis the bees' delight to buzz and bite—
They're always spoiling for a fight,
And always sure to win it.
They'll knock the music out of a poet,
They'll make a rheumaticky subject so it,
Though he couldn't stir a peg he'd shin it—

if two or three good healthy hybrids of warlike instincts struck a bee-line for some prominent bare spot about his physiognomy."

Neighbor Smith said many more things during the evening, which I have not now time to relate.
Forest City, 3 Iowa.

Canadian Apiarists in London.

The Canadians who have taken their honey to London to exhibit at the "Colonial," were tendered a banquet by the British apiarists, which was a very brilliant affair. The *British Bee Journal* speaking of it, remarks as follows:

The bee-keepers of Great Britain have good reason to look back on the gathering that took place on Wednesday, Oct. 6, at the Exhibition at South Kensington, with no slight degree of hopefulness and complacency. The primary object of the meeting, namely, to extend the hand of friendship and fellowship to those who in a distant country are occupied in the same pursuit as themselves, was one that would commend itself to all imbued with fraternal feelings. But while this was the principal cause that induced so many to gather together, other thoughts must have flashed across their minds when they contemplated the great number that were present at the luncheon at mid-day, and at the conversation in the evening.

It seems but a short time ago that bee-keeping was an industry struggling for a bare existence, scarcely known or recognized, disregarded by most people, practiced by few; but prescient minds conceived the idea that this industry, so weak and so obscure, might be fostered and become a boon to many cottagers and laborers; and fraught with this view they brushed aside the indifference of those around, and, by dint of perseverance, energy, and tact—never losing hope, marching on, they at length attained their sought-for end. Some that sowed have not reaped—

some have fallen by the way; but still many in our midst that in the past took an active part in this movement can look backward with joy and thankfulness on the results of their labors, and with hopefulness can contemplate the future that still lies before them. The sight of so many bee-keepers thus brought together—representatives of the respective places in which the lot of each is cast—will cause them "to renew their strength," and with firmer steps and with more determined resolve proceed on their onward way, and strive to overtake their still unfinished work.

The day of the Conference at South Kensington will be one that will ever be remembered by those present on the occasion. The arrangements were most satisfactory. The feelings that predominated in the breasts of British bee-keepers towards their Canadian brethren were hearty and sincere, and those feelings found a ready response in the hearts of those whom on this day they delighted to honor. Though embarked in the same pursuit, there will be, we are assured, no undue rivalry, but both, Canadians and British, will combine with all their strength to extend and increase the industry which they have so much at heart; and we may argue, from the spirit that pervaded the meeting, that these endeavors will not be without their full realization.

At the banquet there were about 100 ladies and gentlemen, including the principal apiarists of Great Britain. We quote again from the *British Bee Journal*, as follows:

The chairman, in proposing the toast of the Queen, said he was sure that the spirit of loyalty to Her Majesty was equally as strong in the hearts of their Colonial friends as in those of Englishmen generally. Every bee-keeper knew that if he wished to have strong colonies he must have a good queen. Fortunately, in England they had a good Queen, and it was during her reign that Britain's colonial possessions had grown to gigantic power and strength. (Loud cheers.)

The Hon. and Rev. Henry Bligh proposed the health of the Prince and Princess of Wales and the other members of the Royal Family. He said that the thanks of all bee-keepers were specially due to the Prince of Wales, who was President of the Executive of the Colonial Exhibition, for his kindness in giving the necessary permission for the holding of their recent Honey Show, which was a grand success, and of which the meeting held that day was the outcome. Not many weeks before their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess, had attended the bee-exhibition held at Norwich, where they evinced the greatest interest in the wonders of the bee-tent. Later on in the year, and in another part of the country, Princess Beatrice had kindly assisted their cause by opening the Bee-Show held at Southampton, where she gave the prizes to successful exhibitors. He thought the work in which they were engaged was a na-

tional one—he might almost say an imperial one, for they took the greatest pleasure in laboring hand in hand with their brethren in all parts of the British Empire.

The Rev. G. Gaynor, in proposing "Prosperity to the Colonies," said he thought the Colonies were certain to be prosperous, because they contained a population possessed of all those characteristics of the Anglo-Saxon race, which had shown such wonderful ability for colonizing, far greater than any other nation of the globe. When Englishmen looked on and saw the wondrous productions of their Colonies (Greater Britain, as they had been termed) they might well doubt whether the mother country would compete with her Colonies of that day. What the future would develop no one could tell, but when they saw that the Colonies could bring to an Exhibition like the present one forty tons of the most superb comb and extracted honey, it behooved the mother country to look around and exert all her energies to keep pace with her children. The difficulty of doing so was apparent in many ways, and not least when they looked at the productions of wheat grain in the Colonies of Australia and New Zealand—far finer than anything that could be produced in Britain. Thirty-five years ago in Kangaroo Island, which was at the present time devoted to the breeding of Italian bees in their pure state, the Legislature of South Australia prohibited the introduction of any other race of bees in that island. They could boast of nothing like that in the old country. They imported Italian bees, but did not attempt to keep the race pure. He thought it was very likely that the Exhibition would become a permanency, in which event they would, he was delighted to say, have many opportunities of fraternizing with their brother bee-keepers from the other side of the Atlantic, which he hoped would tend to increase the bonds of amity between the mother country and her children.

Dr. May (commissioner for education, Canada) said he could not find adequate words wherewith to express his acknowledgements of the kind manner in which the toast had been proposed and accepted of "Prosperity to our Colonies." The first thing upon which he must congratulate the British Bee-Keepers' Association was that they had a taste for the beautiful, which was evident by the presence of so many ladies at their gathering—a proof that bee-keepers were loyal to other queens besides the queen-bee. (Laughter.) On behalf of the Colonies he was glad to say they were a prospering colony who were proud of their connection with the parent colony, and far from entering into rivalry they wished to work hand in hand with the mother country. He hoped they would not think him egotistic if he spoke of his own colony in particular. Very little had been known hitherto about Canada in the old country. Canada had been described, only recently, as being fifty miles wide, and separated by a

belt of trees from the North Pole. (Laughter.) That was an extraordinary statement. The fact was, that they had an area of about 3,500,000 square miles, which made their territory something like the size of Europe. They had a climate which was often spoken of as six months of winter and six months of summer. In that section of Ontario from which their friends, the honey-producers came, the winter commenced in the latter part of December and terminated in March. If they could draw a line straight across the Atlantic from South Ontario, it would be found to strike somewhere about the latitude of Rome. They would, therefore, understand that Canada was a tract of land which was very prolific and literally flowing with milk and honey. They were a most hospitable people there, and he was sure that if any of their friends in England would pay a visit to Canada, they would find that to be a fact. With regard to the honey of his country, their English friends would be enabled to judge for themselves. There was no doubt that Canadians were a people full of indomitable perseverance and energy. They were not content to sit down and be satisfied with present successes. Mr. Jones, as they all knew, had done very much for bee-keeping. He was called the king-bee in his own country. In spite of his unique position in the bee-world, he was not satisfied, because he could not find a bee with a proboscis sufficiently long to enable it to gather honey from all sources. He had been all over the world in search of such a bee, which he was determined to find or breed if possible. If they could not discover a bee with the desired proboscis, they must endeavor to gain their purpose by giving artificial aid to the little insect. (Laughter.) He then referred to the excellent system of free education which prevailed in Ontario, whereby the sons and daughters of rich and poor were educated alike, by which means latent talent, which was frequently to be met with in the children of the poorest classes, was given free scope for development. They also had a Mechanics' Institute, supported by the Government for the instruction of adults. He was sorry his education in regard to bees had been very much neglected, but he remembered that little poem which began, "How doth the little busy bee," etc., and if they would allow him to improvise upon that, he would say:—

Canada is a great country for honey,
It is there farmers and bee-keepers make lots of money.
Our bees extract nectar from flowers so sweet,
That all nations consider our honey a treat.

(Loud laughter.) With regard to the loyalty of the Canadian people, they claim to be in no way inferior to their English brethren. Anything that affected the liberty of England was a matter of the greatest interest and solicitude to her children across the ocean, who were justly proud of their illustrious parentage. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Stewart proposed the toast of the "Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association," coupling with it the names of

Mr. S. Corneil and Mr. McKnight, two gentlemen who, as representatives of that Association, had honored them with their company that day. He recommended all present not to leave the Exhibition without seeing the splendid display of honey from Canada then on view. They might be quite sure of the courtesy of the gentlemen named. He had experienced it, and was much gratified with what he had witnessed under their guidance. Although English bee-keepers had made great strides of late years, they would still find something to learn from their Canadian fellow-workers.

Mr. S. Corneil said it afforded him great pleasure to be present at that meeting. Bee-keeping in Ontario was quite a new industry. It was only a very few years ago since he remembered noticing in one of the papers an announcement that their friend Mr. Jones was taking a barrel of honey per day. That would be considered a very small affair in the present day. It was, however, only during the last 12 or 15 years that the industry had grown to such great proportions. He was quite sure that the news of the cordial reception he and his friends had met with from English bee-keepers would be received with gratitude by his fellow-countrymen. Bee-keepers all over the world had a great deal in common. They wished to discuss and compare notes. They were all learners. He had learnt several matters of importance since his arrival in London. With regard to the production of honey in Canada, he well knew that they had climatic advantages, owing to the large amount of sunshine with which they were favored during the summer months. Their climate was everything that could be desired for the secretion of nectar in the flowers. The assistance rendered by bees to the agriculturist was well appreciated in his country. They gathered the finest honey from the clover fields, and the farmers found from common observation that when their farms were close to a large apiary of bees, their fields yielded them far more seeds per acre than would otherwise be the case. Thus the bees conferred a double benefit on man; so much so that most farmers took to bee-keeping in order to increase their crops of clover seed. In Canada there were only five or six millions of people. They were scattered over a large extent of territory. Hitherto Canadian bee-keepers had kept at home all the honey they produced. In Britain there were a great many more than five million people, and having heard that honey was constantly being imported from other countries into England, the bee-keepers of Canada thought that whatever profits were to be obtained by imports, friends might as well get them as strangers. They had, therefore, come over in the hope of securing a small share in the advantages of the honey trade.

Mr. McKnight desired to thank the British Bee-Keepers' Association in the name and on behalf of Canadian bee-keepers for the splendid enter-

tainment afforded to their delegates. They recognized the right hand of fellowship extended from the mother country. He could tell his audience that he and his friends would carry home the most pleasing recollections of the way in which they had been entertained by the bee-keepers of Britain. They, as representatives of the Ontario Association, came over to show what their country could produce. Their land was veritably the Canaan of America, flowing with milk and honey. If any one doubted that, let him make his way to the honey exhibition, where he would find conclusive evidence of the fact. They came over to make glad the hearts of their own mother England. Every mother ought to be proud of her offspring, and it must afford her gratification when they conducted themselves in life so as to win her approbation. He was sure that England must be proud when she saw what they had been doing beyond the seas. They had proved that they had not been lying on their oars, and, in fact, that they had added as much to the glory of Great Britain as her soldiers and sailors had done in years past. They had made primeval forests to disappear, and in their place raise up the fruits of the earth. Those were the battle fields on which their victories had been fought and won, and it required a stout heart to engage in those fights. It was an old saying that bee-keepers were a very fine class of people. (Laughter.) Well, there was no question that they possessed some excellent characteristics. Their pursuit necessitated a large amount of moral courage, patience, and perseverance. One seldom found a successful bee-keeper to be a cross-grained and bald-headed man. Possibly the reason of this was that he had a peculiar being to deal with, and one who would defend its home and property with Spartan courage. (Cheers.)

The chairman regreted the absence of Mr. Pettit, the President of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association, who had been obliged to leave that day. Before his departure he requested the chairman to express his cordial acknowledgements of the kindness of the British Bee-Keepers' Association.

The Rev. F. Jenyns said he had been asked to propose the health of those who were amongst them as visitors, and whose presence added much to the pleasure of the gathering. He trusted they would do their best to carry into their respective districts a knowledge of what they had seen and heard that day. The meeting was honored by the presence of two distinguished visitors, namely, the Secretary of the Swiss Association, a most advanced bee-keeper, and also the President of the Devonshire Association, whose connection and relationship with Mr. Woodbury would alone entitle him to the respect of all bee-keepers. He felt sure all present would be able to look back on that day with happy remembrances, for it was a remarkable day, not only for the pleasure it

afforded to so many bee-keepers of coming together, but because it showed the wonderful development of their favorite industry, which, upon a retrospect of a few years, one would hardly have believed possible. That was a source of great gratification to the British Bee-Keepers' Association, to whose efforts that result, to a large extent, was due. Of course they could not but be delighted to find that their objects and aims had spread so far west as Ontario. He hoped that the meeting would tend to promote the good work in which they were engaged, and strengthen the bonds of friendship which he believed existed among all bee-keepers.

Pasteur Descoulayes (who spoke in French), Secretary of the Societe Romande d'Apiculture, said it gave him the greatest pleasure to be able to be present, and to thank them on behalf of himself and other visitors present. He said the bee-keepers in Switzerland were greatly indebted to their Chairman (Mr. Cowan) for much information, always willingly given by him at all times personally, and to his writings. He was well known and appreciated by the Continental bee-keepers. He compared the British Bee-Keepers' Association to a large and strong hive that did its work well.

Mr. Horton Ellis also briefly acknowledged the toast, expressing his great pleasure at being present on so memorable an occasion; he added a few words to the effect that he looked forward to the time when an improvement of the honey-bee might take place, by means of judicious crossing of the breeds, possibly the Indian with the Ligurian.

The proceedings in the luncheon-room being adjourned, the guests were conducted to the honey-show in the Exhibition, where the magnificent display of Canadian honey, exhibited by 27 members of the Ontario Association, was inspected, there being about forty tons of comb and extracted honey.

System and Success.

All who intend to be systematic in their work in the apiary, should get a copy of the *Apiary Register* and commence to use it. The prices are reduced, as follows:

For 50 colonies (120 pages).....	\$1 00
" 100 colonies (220 pages).....	1 25
" 200 colonies (420 pages).....	1 50

The larger ones can be used for a few colonies, give room for an increase of numbers, and still keep the record all together in one book, and are therefore the most desirable.

Reader, do you not just now think of one bee-keeper who does not take the *Weekly Bee Journal*, and who should do so? Perhaps a word or two from you will induce him to do so. Will you not kindly oblige us by getting his subscription to send on with your own renewal for next year? When you do so, please select any 25 cent book in on list, and we will send it to you post-paid, to pay for your trouble. We are aiming to get 5,000 new subscribers for 1887—will you not assist us to obtain them?

Local Convention Directory.

Time and place of Meeting.
 Nov. 24, 25.—Illinois Central, at Mt. Sterling, Ill.
 J. M. Hambaugh, Sec., Springfield, Ill.
 Dec. 1, 2.—Michigan State, at Ypsilanti, Mich.
 H. D. Cutting, Sec., Clinton, Mich.
 1887.
 Jan. 12.—Nebraska State, at Lincoln, Nebr.
 H. N. Patterson, Sec., Humboldt, Nebr.
 Jan. 23.—N. W. Ill. & M. W. Wis., at Rockford, Ill.
 J. Stewart, Sec., Rock City, Ill.

In order to have this table complete, Secretaries are requested to forward full particulars of time and place of future meetings.—ED.

SELECTIONS FROM OUR LETTER BOX

Peculiar Action of Worker Bees.—

E. E. Ewing, Rising Sun, Ind., on Nov. 4, 1886, writes:

Query, No. 331 appears to puzzle the veterans. All bee-keepers have noticed the bees at times "pawing" with apparently much industry on the alighting-board. It occurred to me that they might be trying to clean off the dirt which accumulates in front of the entrance, and smoking the "pawers" in, I washed the black accumulation off with salt and water until the colonies had a white, clean porch in front of their door, when the scraping ceased. I think the industrious, tidy things not finding much to do in the fields, employ themselves in trying to scrub off their front porches.

Good Fall Weather, etc.—W. Adenbrooke, North Prairie, Wis., on Nov. 9, 1886, writes thus:

I disposed of my bees down to 67 colonies, about 50 good ones, the balance being below par; increased by natural swarming to 130 colonies, all of which are in good condition for winter without feeding. My bees have stored 4,000 pounds of comb honey in sections 4½x5 inches, and over 1,000 pounds of extracted honey. About half of my crop I have sold at from 8 to 15 cents per pound. We had a severe drouth near the end of the honey season, which curtailed the amount of the crop. We have had splendid fall weather up to date.

Working on Red Clover.—Joseph Beath, Corning, Iowa, on Nov. 3, 1886, says:

I commenced the season of 1886 with 18 colonies, increased them to 32, took 1,100 pounds of extracted honey, and my hives are now full of honey. I think that my bees are in the best condition for winter that I ever had them. Mr. Doolittle, in his report on page 631, says that his bees worked on red clover that was saved for seed, which is the second crop. Mine did the same thing last year, and even the black bees were on it in numbers. But although the heads

were still smaller this year, there was no bees that worked on it. Probably there was no nectar in it. It is true that we cannot have the nectar without the flowers, but I notice that we frequently have the flowers without the nectar. When any of our fraternity have bees that work on the first crop of red clover, I for one should be glad to know it.

Late Swarms, etc.—Wm. Anderson, Sherman, Mo., on Nov. 8, 1886, says:

I have reaped a bountiful crop of honey, and my bees never were in as good condition for winter as they are at the present time. On Oct. 10 I had a large swarm of bees, a strange thing for that time of the year. In June I got 3 Italian queens. I introduced one of them, but did not kill the black queen, which I had taken out. I kept her about three days, when I went to see how the new queen was getting along. I found her all right; but not wanting to kill the black queen I let her fly away. A day or so after I went to see how the new queen was getting along, and to my surprise I found the black one back in the hive, and the new queen gone. I know the new queen was all right, for after the proper time there were some Italian bees in the hive.

Severe Drouth.—B. W. Peck, Richmond Centre, Ind., on Nov. 6, 1886, gives his report as follows:

I commenced the spring of 1886 with 25 colonies of bees, increased them to 40, and took 1,675 pounds of honey, 445 pounds being in one-pound sections, and the rest was extracted honey. We had a severe drouth here which cut the season short.

Case of Bee-Diarrhea.—H. J. Northrup, Lansingburg, N. Y., writes:

I send a box containing samples of bees. Lay them down on a board, place a stick upon their abdomen, stand back and press down, and then tell what ails them. They have been dying in large numbers. I would like to know the cause, and the remedy, if there is any.

[This is a clear case of bee-diarrhea. The fecal mass is a combination of pollen and water, differing in proportion in different specimens. In some of the bees the mass is very watery; in others quite thick and pasty. Of course I have no chance to even guess the cause of the bees thus gorging themselves and retaining the mass unto death, as I know nothing of the circumstances.—JAMES HEDDON.]

Five Thousand new subscribers to the BEE JOURNAL is what we have made our calculations for; they will come in clubs between now and next spring. Installments are coming every day.

Honey and Beeswax Market:

The following are our very latest quotations for honey and beeswax:

CHICAGO.

HONEY.—It has sold better during this month than at any time since the new crop came on the market. Yet prices are not any higher, sales being made at 11½¢ for white honey in 1-lb. sections. Fancy sections of less than 1 lb. in weight, at 13¢. Extracted is unchanged in tone or values, being 56½¢ per lb.

BEESWAX.—23½¢. R. A. BURNETT, 161 South Water St.

NEW YORK.

HONEY.—We quote this year's crop as follows: Fancy white in 1-lb. sections, clean and neat packages, 15¢@16¢; 2-lbs., 12¢@13¢; fair to good 1-lbs., 12¢@14¢; 2-lbs., 10¢@11¢; fancy buckwheat 1-lbs., 11¢@12¢; 2-lbs., 9¢@10¢. White clover extracted in kegs and small barrels, 9¢@7¢; California extracted in 60-lb. cans, 5¢@5 1-2¢; California comb honey, 10¢@11¢.

BEESWAX.—Prime yellow, 22¢@24¢. MCCAUL & HILDRETH BROS., 34 Hudson St.

BOSTON.

HONEY.—The demand has improved. We are selling one-pound packages of white clover honey at 14¢@15¢; 2-pounds at 13¢@14¢.

BEESWAX.—25¢. BLAKE & RIPLEY, 57 Chatham Street.

DETROIT.

HONEY.—Best white in 1-lb. sections, 12¢@13¢; dark, 10¢@11¢, with a good supply in commission houses.

BEESWAX.—23¢. M. H. HUNT, Bell Branch, Mich.

CINCINNATI.

HONEY.—There is a lively demand for table honey in square glass jars, and the demand for nice comb honey is very good. Demand from manufacturers is slow for dark grades of extracted honey. The ranking prices for extracted is 3¢@7¢. Nice comb brings 12¢@15¢ per lb. in a jobbing way.

BEESWAX.—Home demand is good. We pay 20¢@23¢ per lb. Nov. 10. C. F. MUTH & SON, Freeman & Central Av.

CLEVELAND.

HONEY.—Choice new honey in 1-lb. sections is selling at 14¢; 2-lbs., 12¢@13¢. Old honey is very dull at 10¢@12¢. Extracted, 9¢@7¢.

BEESWAX.—25¢. A. C. KENDEL, 115 Ontario Street.

MILWAUKEE.

HONEY.—The market for honey of choice quality is firmer and we are trying to establish a higher range of values. We quote 1-lb. sections of white at 12¢@13¢; 2-lbs., 11¢@12¢; dark not wanted. Extracted, white, in half barrels and in kegs, 9¢@7¢; in tin packages, 7¢@7½¢; in barrels, as to quality, 5¢@5½¢.

BEESWAX.—No demand. Oct. 2. A. V. BISHOP, 142 W. Water St.

SAN FRANCISCO.

HONEY.—There is a firmer market for extracted, and especially for comb honey, as the crop of the latter is rather small. Apiarists have sold what they were obliged to dispose of for payment of packages and labor, and they hold the balance back at higher prices. The demand is increasing, and we quote with ready takers, 4¢@4½¢ for choice extracted; 3¢@3½¢ for amber extracted; and 2¢@2½¢ for comb honey in 2-lb. sections; darker grades bring 7¢@8¢.

BEESWAX.—It finds buyers at 23¢@24¢. Sep. 28. SCHACHT & LEMCKE, 122-124 Davis St.

HONEY.—Trade is quiet. Extra white comb 11¢; amber, 7¢@10¢. Extracted, white, 4¢@4½¢; amber, 3¢@3½¢.

BEESWAX.—20¢@23¢. Oct. 18. O. B. SMITH & CO., 423 Front Street.

ST. LOUIS.

HONEY.—Choice comb, 11¢@12½¢; latter price is for choice white clover. Strained, in barrels, 3¢@4¢. Extra fancy of bright color and in No. 1 packages, ¼ advance on above prices. Extracted in barrels, 4¢@5½¢; in cans 9¢@7¢.

BEESWAX.—Dull at 21¢ for choice. Oct. 21. D. G. TUTT & CO., Commercial St.

KANSAS CITY.

HONEY.—Demand for all grades is good, and sales are large. Receipts are good and prices are steady with a firm feeling. We quote: 1-lb. sections of white clover, 13¢@14¢; dark, 10¢@12¢; 2-lbs., white clover, 11¢@12¢; dark, 9¢@10¢; Calif., 2-lbs., 9¢@11¢; ¼-lbs., white clover, 14¢@15¢. Extracted white clover, 9¢@7¢; dark, 4¢@5¢; white sage, 5¢@6¢; Calif., amber, 5¢.

BEESWAX.—20¢@22¢. Oct. 15. CLEMENS, CLOON & CO., cor. 4th & Walnut.

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